## Thunderbird Archeological Associates Patuxent Point 1987: Notes on Artifact Cataloging and Packing by Carole L. Nash

## 1987

Each provenience, whether surface collection or excavation, was given a Field Specimen Number (FS\*), which is marked on the bag and listed in the Field Specimen Catalogue. Refer to this (xerox copy in folder with paperwork) if provenience questions arise. The FS\*'s run from 1-536.

Archeological investigations were undertaken in three fields on the development property in 1987: A, B, and D. To place these in space, see Gardner 1988 ("Archeological Investigations at the Proposed Patuxent Point Development"), pp. 35 (Figure 3). Four archeological sites were investigated, and two scatters located. These are as follows:

<u>18CV271</u>: Predominately Historic Site with Prehistoric Scatter (Area D, with a small portion extending into Area A, the later boxed as H-3; see Gardner 1988, Figures 5 & 6).

<u>18CV272</u>: Predominately Prehistoric Site with Historic Scatter (Area D; see Gardner 1988, Figure 7).

<u>18CV278</u>: Predominately Prehistoric Site with Historic Scatter (Area A; see Gardner 1988, Figure 4).

<u>18CV279</u>: Predominately Historic Site with Prehistoric Scatter (Area A; see Gardner 1988, Figure 5).

<u>18CVx260</u>: Prehistoric/Historic Scatter in Area A, outside the boundaries of 18CV271, 18CV278, and 18CV279. Includes artifacts from Plowstrips III-VI.

18CVx261: Prehistoric/Historic Scatter in Area B.

Rather than automatically pack the artifacts in order by FS\*, they were first divided into <u>historic</u> and <u>prehistoric</u> categories, and then by site. Only prehistoric artifacts were boxed in order by FS\*, as they were amenable to this (lots of bags with small numbers of small artifacts that were easily packed). Historic artifacts were generally just boxed by site.

## ARTIFACT MARKING

All three fields were plowed and divided into strips (20' wide), which were further divided into squares (20'x20'). These guided the controlled surface collection. Figures 4-8 in Gardner 1988 show the strips for Areas A (I-VIII) and D (I-XVIII); Area B was not illustrated, but contained strips numbering I-IV.

The following example shows how artifacts from the controlled surface collection were marked:

18CV272 CSC D V-4

The row is the site number, the second translates as "Controlled Surface Collection/Area D", and the third as "Plowstrip V, Square 4".

Several test pits and features were excavated in 1987; the artifacts from these are marked accordingly, with either "TP.../L-..." (signifying 'test pit' and 'level') or "F-.../L-..." (signifying 'feature' and 'level') replacing the "CSC" and strip number.

General surface collections were made in some instances; these range from random finds to sweeping 'look-sees' on the last day in the field after a rain. These artifacts are marked with a site number and "GS" for 'general surface'.

Prehistoric lithic diagnostics from the project area have been bagged together, being pulled from their FS order. This is because we thought you might have a special place for your diagnostic collections.

Both prehistoric and historic artifacts were marked with india ink, the surfaces being prepared in some instances with clear gloss or white out. After marking, the numbers were covered with gloss. Artifacts not amenable to this were bagged in polyethylene with tags enclosed. These were rebagged in paper sacks. Neither the tags nor the bags are acid-free. Some of the historic ceramics have fragile glazes, and they were carefully washed in water and separated from other artifacts within the bag. These probably need some curatorial attention, as do the few nails that have been placed in individual polyethylene bags. Of particular interest in a pewter spoon from 18CV271. None of the metal has been treated with

preservatives.

## 1988 Patuxent Artifacts: 18CV272

Most of the artifacts from this investigation were from excavated proveniences. In fact, there are relatively few artifacts from this work, compared to the 1987 surface collections. All are marked with the site number (18CV272), the feature number ("F-..."), and the level number ("L-..."). In the case of Feature 3, which was excavated in quadrants, a notation for this is made (e.g. "SE" for 'southeast'). For further information, see Gardner, Nash, Walker, and Barse 1989, which details the excavations.

Almost all of these artifacts are prehistoric, with ceramics comprising the greatest portion of these. As they are primarily from Mockley vessels (thick, shell-tempered, and fragile), they need to be protected. We began the reconstruction of vessels, but could not finish them. Particularly, there is a rather large Net Impressed vessel from Feature 6 which has been boxed separately. The sherds are individually wrapped in padded paper to protect them. Also, the Cord Marked/Plain vessel pictured in the report (from Feature 3) has been treated in a similar manner.

Again, marking and packaging follow the 1987 guidelines noted above.

We are sending charcoal samples from both 1987 and 1988 that were taken in the field or picked from water screening. In most instances these are packed in aluminum foil. Also, bone from these two years is being sent, with the exception of fish bone, which is being analyzed by Tom Whyte of James Madison University Archeological Research Center, Harrisonburg, VA, for research he is conducting on MIddle Woodland diet. The bone has been washed but not treated further.

Finally, we are sending water screening and flotation samples which have not been completely separated. These are from the 1988 work at 18CV272. We hope that you will have the personnel to complete this sorting, and that you will let us know the results, if it is done.

If you have any questions about this, please contact me at TAA (703-459-4017) or at Catholic University (202-635-5080).

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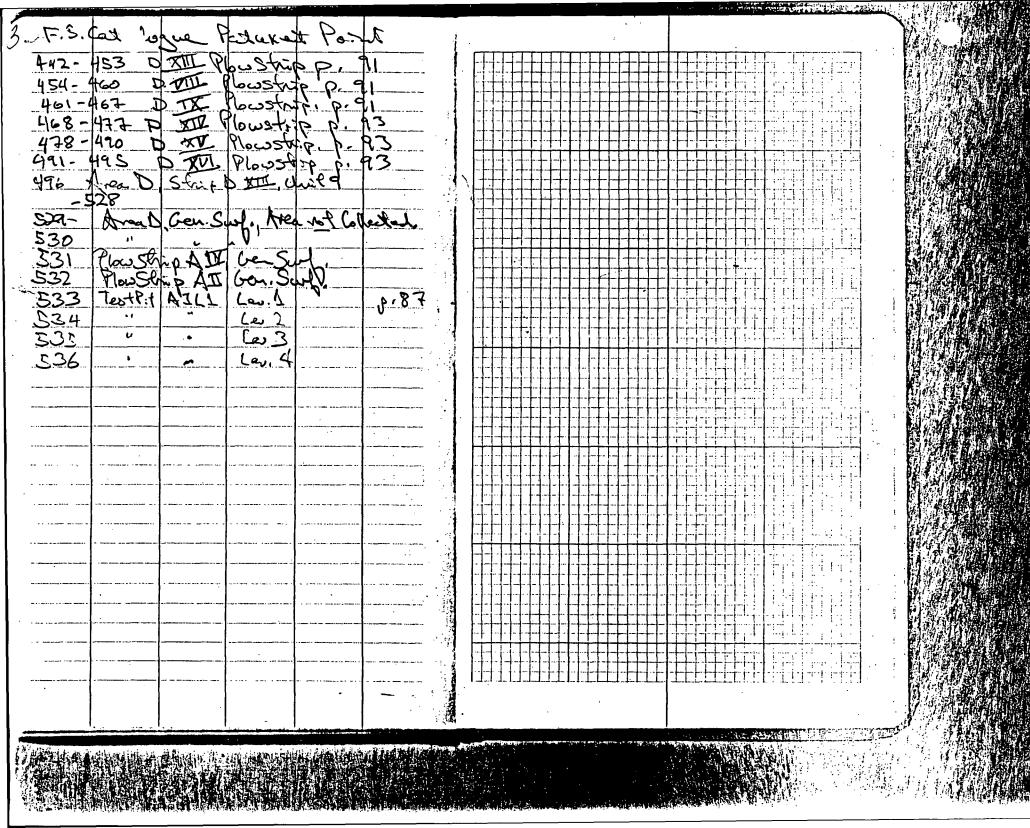
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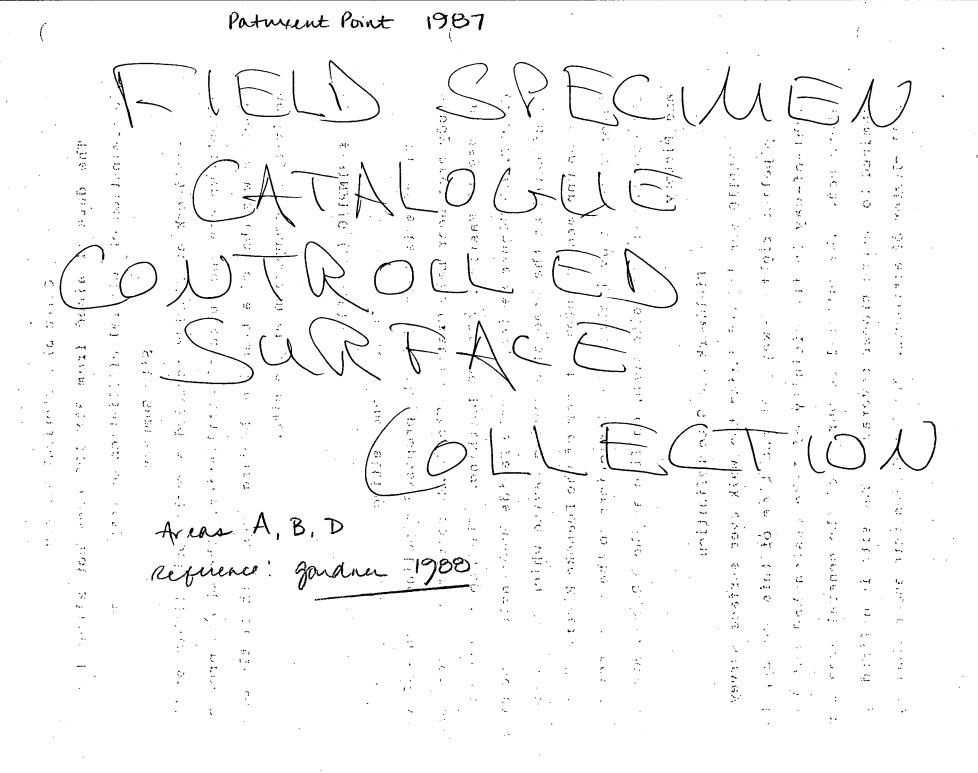
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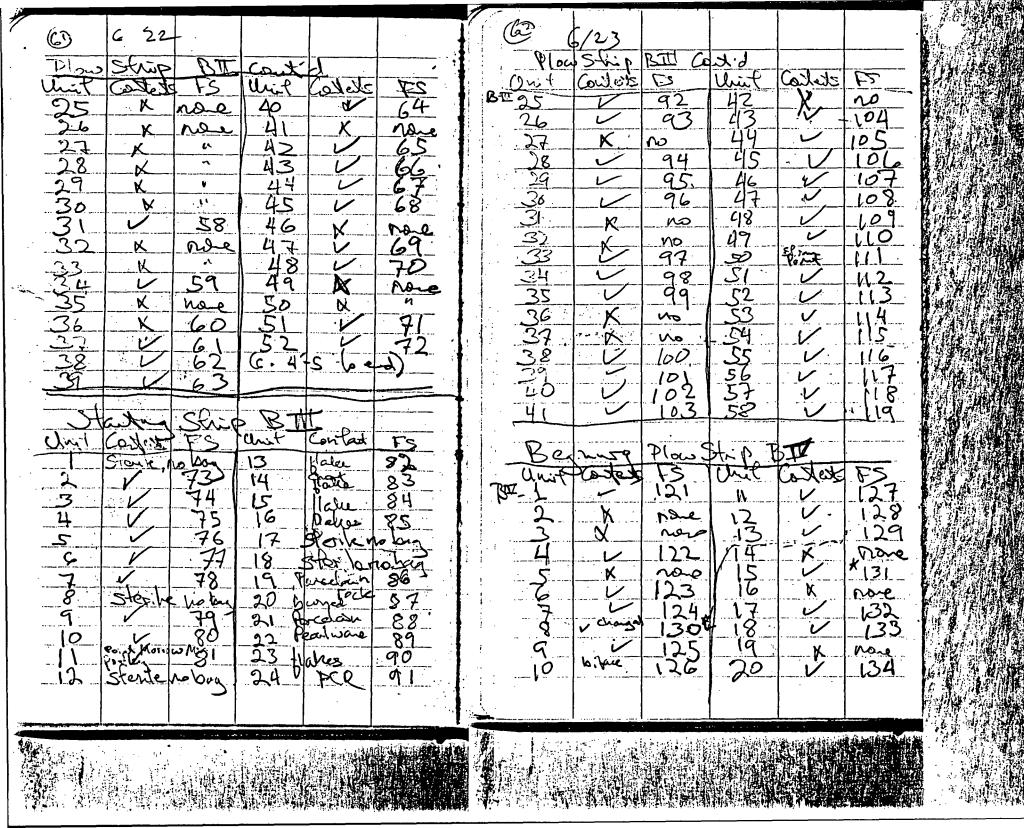
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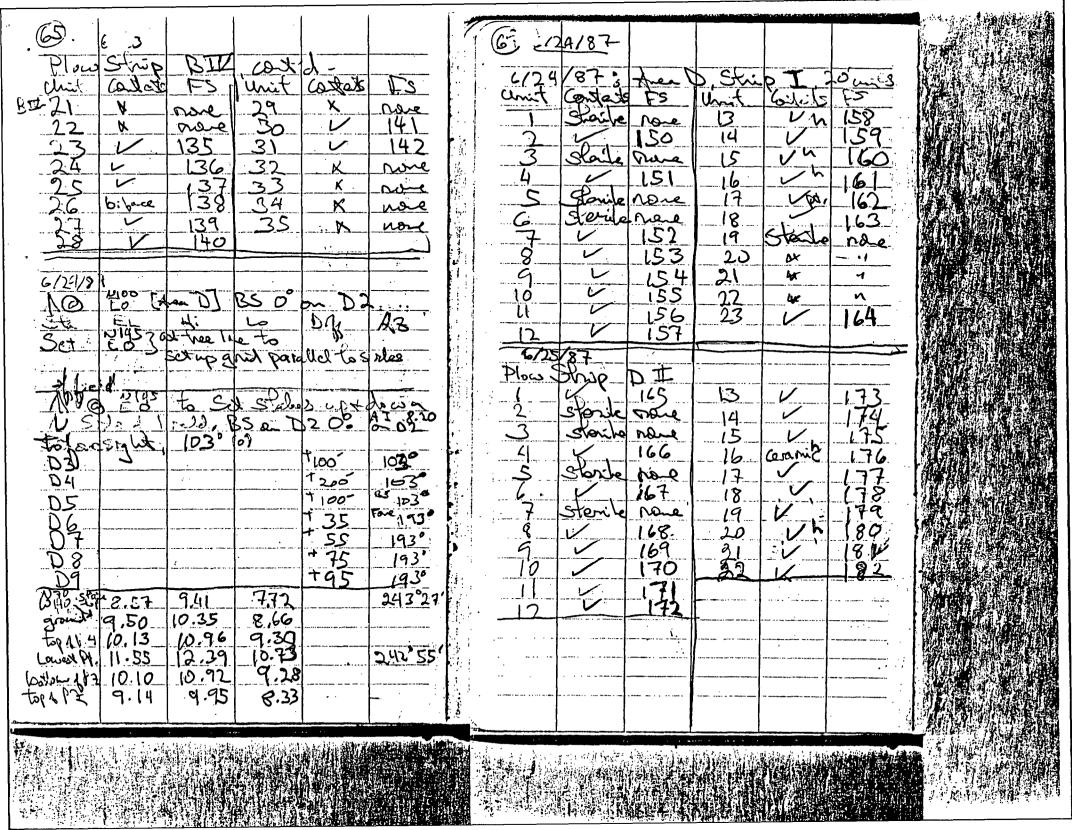
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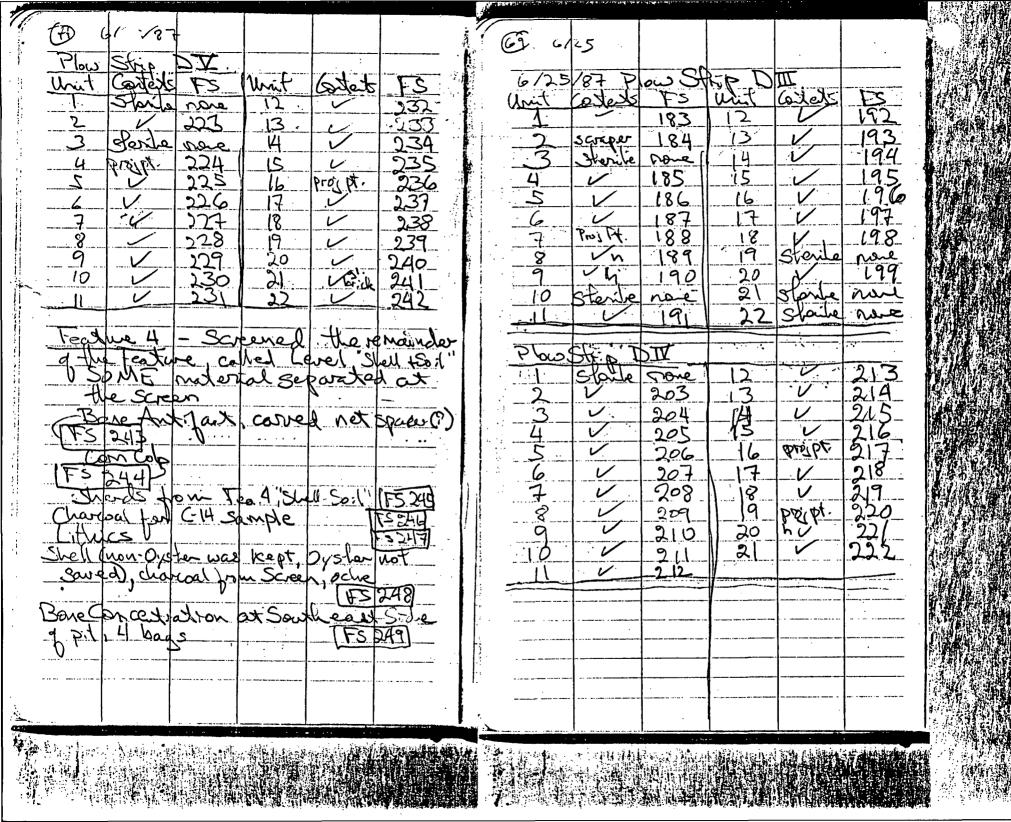


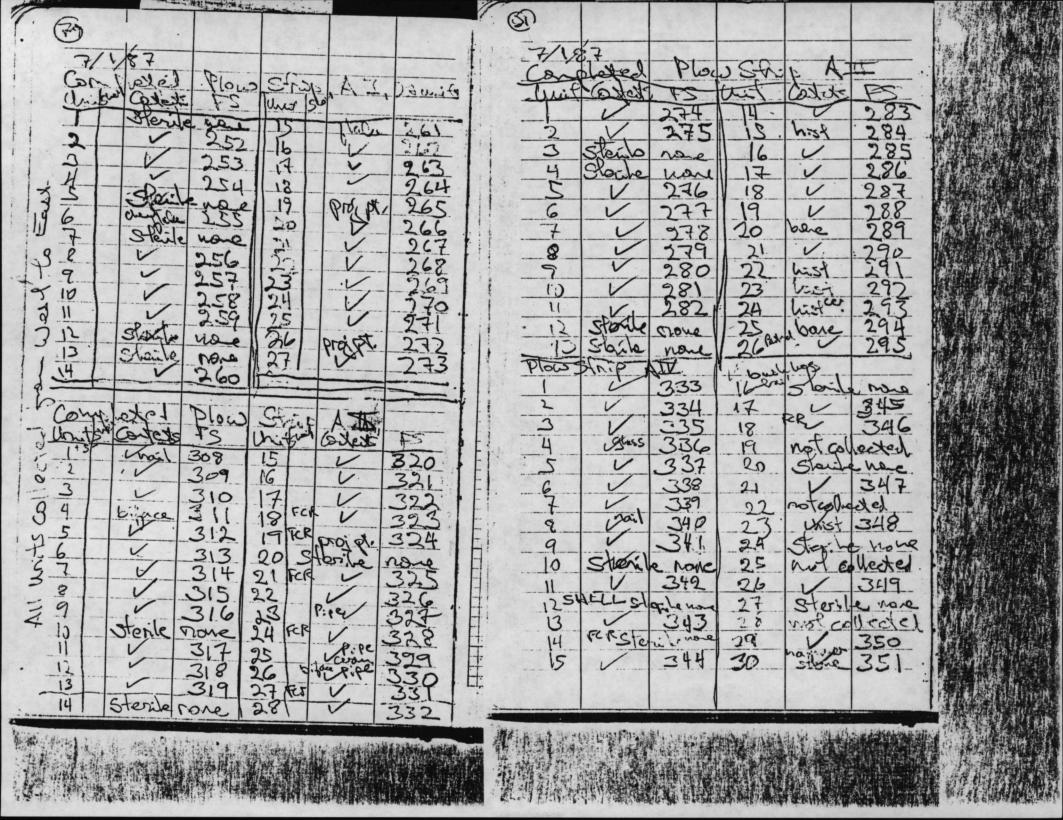


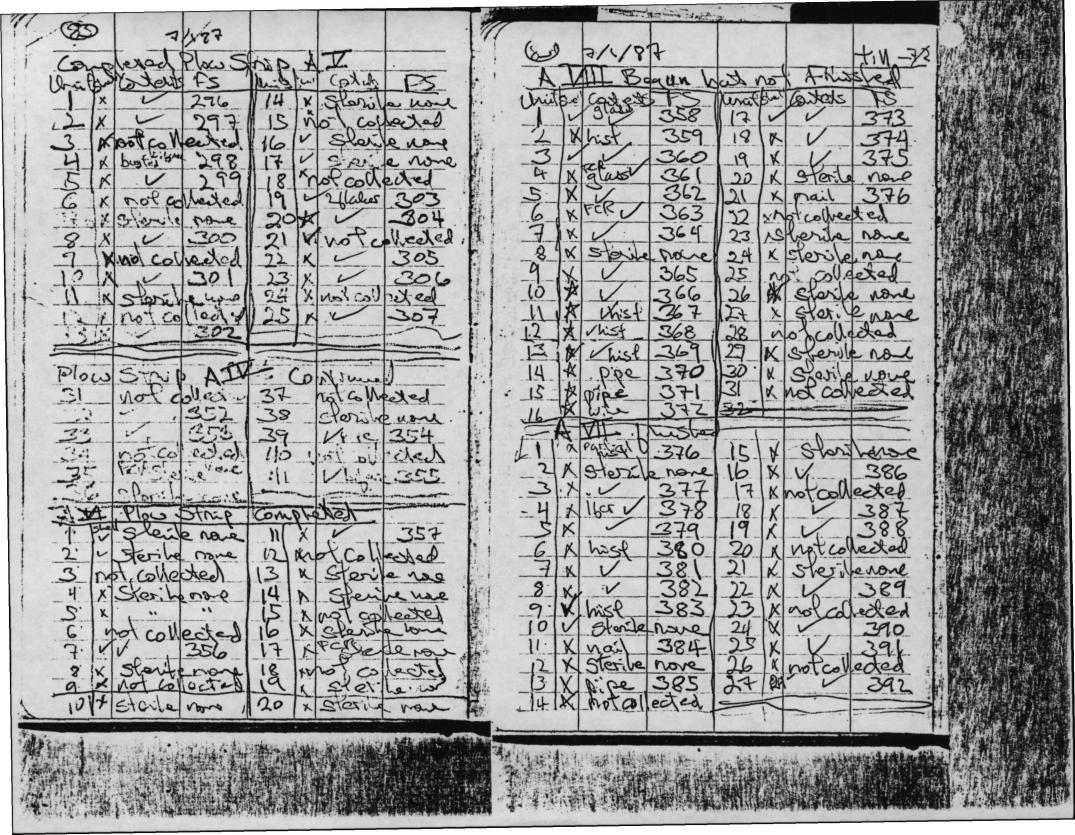
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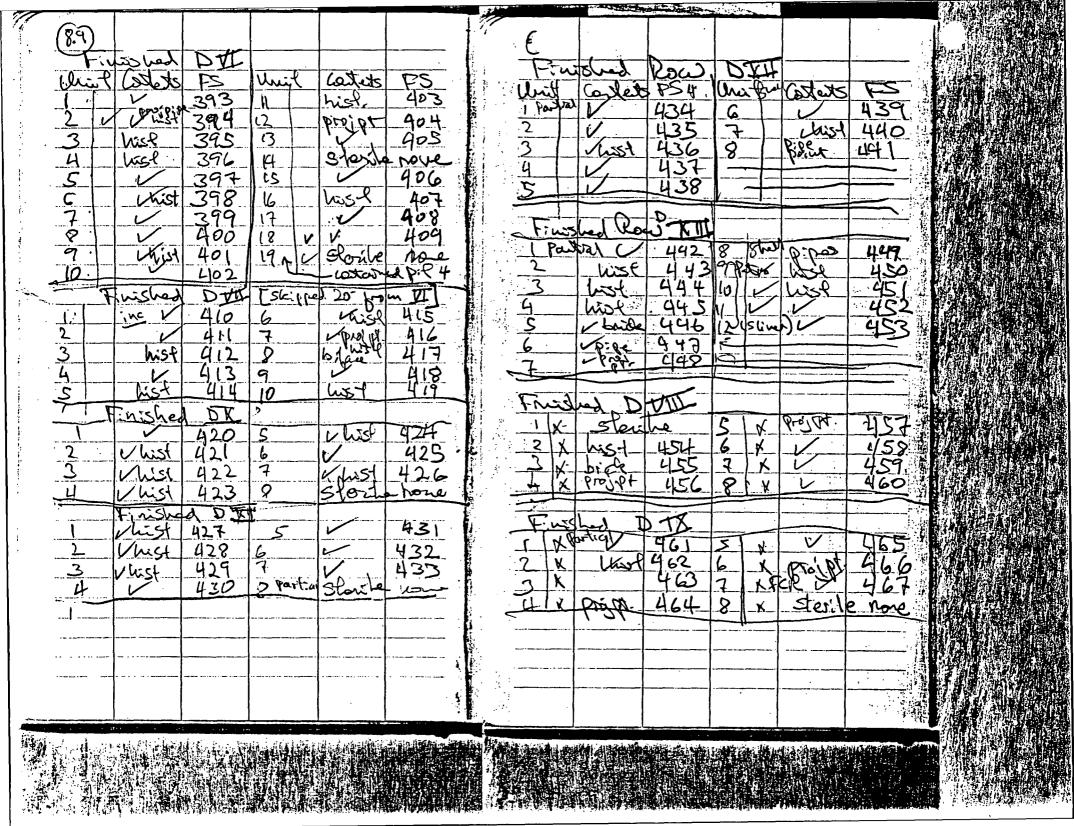












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